

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended.

In item 3 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that claims 1 and 13 are indefinite because the newly added limitation that the thermoplastic layers from "an outer component surface of a component within said volume" was unclear and did not appear to limit the metes and bounds of the claims. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Amended claims 1 and 13 describe that components are formed in the thermoplastic layer. The components are formed by pressing shaped volumes into the thermoplastic layers. The components have a component outer surface. Support for these changes may be found in originally-filed, now-cancelled claim 9 of the instant application.

Accordingly, the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claim for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 5 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 as being obvious over Gardill (U.S. 5,614,285) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As will be explained below, the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body including the following features:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume into said thermoplastic layers;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers. (Emphasis added by Applicants.)

Gardill merely show a thermoplastic layer of constant thickness. Gardill does not show, "Thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers

including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume into said thermoplastic layers."

Claim 13 also includes those features.

Accordingly, none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1 or 13. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the art. Moreover, because all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are solicited. In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

LOREN DONALD PEARSON
REG. NO. 42,987



For Applicant

LDP:cgm

April 10, 2002

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:In the Claims:

Claim 1 (four times amended). A multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers [defining] including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume [and forming an outer component surface of a component within said volume] into said thermoplastic layers;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.

Claim 13 (four times amended). A motor vehicle component or perform produced from a multilayer composite, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers [defining] including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume [and forming an outer component surface of a component within said volume] into said thermoplastic layers;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.